

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 FEA-01 EB-07 INT-05 /059 W

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R 041322Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9388

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO, NO, NL, DA

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN POSITION ON PROTECTION OF OFFSHORE OIL
INSTLLATIONS

REFS: (A) OSLO 0434 (B) OSLO 228

SUMMARY: NORWAY HAS DECIDED THAT FOR ITS PART
PROTECTION OF OFFSHORE OIL RIGS IN PEACETIME IS PROPER
SUBJECT OF NORTH SEA STATE RATHER THAN NATO COOPERATION
AND THAT IN WARTIME BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH THE US
IS THE PREFERRED APPROACH. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND
HAS DISCUSSED THIS WITH HIS DUTCH AND DANISH COUNTER-
PARTS. END SUMMARY

1. DURING CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND

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MARCH 1 WE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF NORTH SEA OIL RIG PRO-

TECTION WHICH HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF LIVELY INTEREST HERE AND OF ANTI-NATO ATTACKS FROM USSR. FRYDENLUND SAID IT WAS NORWAY'S VIEW THAT OIL RIG PROTECTION IN PEACETIME SHOULD BE MATTER FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN NORTH SEA RIPARIAN STATES OF UK, DENMARK, HOLLAND, GERMANY AND NORWAY, AND HE HAS NOW STATED THIS PUBLICLY. (IN RECENT DAYS NON-SOCIALIST PARTY SPOKESMAN HAS ECHOED THIS VIEW.) SUCH COOPERATION FRYDENLUND SAID WOULD PRINCIPALLY INVOLVE THREATS FROM TERRORISM AND WOULD IN NORWAY BE HANDLED AS POLICE ISSUE BY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAS NOT YET CONSIDERED MECHANICS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS APPROACH.

2. HE HAD DISCUSSED DUTCH NATO PROPOSAL FOR EURO-GROUP STUDY OF OIL RIG PROTECTION WITH DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WHEN HE WAS IN OSLO FEB 17 AND INFORMED HIM OF NORWEGIAN VIEW. HE SAID VAN DER STOEL STATED HE COULD ACCEPT NORWEGIAN APPROACH. DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER K. B. ANDERSEN, WHO VISITED OSLO FEB 27-MARCH 1, SAID IN PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH FRYDENLUND THAT LIKE NORWEGIANS HE FOUND IT NATURAL TO DISCUSS OIL RIG PROTECTION IN NORTH SEA RATHER THAN NATO FORUM. (SECRETARY GENERAL IN DEFENSE MINISTRY TELLS US, HOWEVER, HIS MINISTRY AND DUTCH COUNTERPART DO NOT AGREE WITH THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS.)

3. AS TO PROTECTION IN WARTIME, FRYDENLUND SAID NORWEGIANS FEEL ONLY US REALLY HAD ABILITY TO DEFEND OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS AND CONSEQUENTLY COOPERATION THIS FIELD WOULD SEEM MORE APPROPRIATE AS BILATERAL MATTER BETWEEN US AND NORWAY, RECOGNIZING THAT SACLANT WAS PREPARING STUDY OF OFFSHORE PROTECTION IN WARTIME.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED SURPRISE WHEN I SUGGESTED ANNOUNCEMENT OF NORWEGIAN DECISION ON THIS ISSUE COMING RIGHT AFTER SOVIET PROTESTS AND HIS OWN EARLIER DECISION TO AWAIT RESULTS OF STOLTENBERG COMMITTEE REVIEW MADE IT LOOK AS THOUGH NORWAY WAS CAVING IN TO PRESSURE. NOTING THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR ROMANOVSKIY

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HAD EXPRESSED TWICE TO HIM SOVIET DISAPPROVAL OF NATO INVOLVEMENT IN OFFSHORE RIG PROTECTION, HE STATED FIRMLY CONVICTION THAT NORWAY'S DECISION WAS A "RATIONAL" NOT PRESSURED ONE. (MEANWHILE, WE UNDERSTAND STOLTENBERG HAS PUSHED UP WHOLE TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETION OF HIS STUDY.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, CONTINENTAL SHELF, SECURITY, NORTH SEA, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OSLO00901
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750075-0979
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750384/aaaacyav.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 OSLO 0434, 75 OSLO 228
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORWEGIAN POSITION ON PROTECTION OF OFFSHORE OIL INSTLLATIONS
TAGS: MARR, NO, NL, DA, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006